

## *How we came to be . . .*

July 1958	First organizational meeting held at the home of Ralph and Evelyn Reese
September 1958	25 acres of land was purchased from Ruckel Properties at a cost of \$9,375.
October 1958	First clearing started at Ivy Street and 18 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (Reese and Hogan families)
January 1959	Site changed to Valparaiso Blvd and Ivy Street (south side of property) because of the new County Road
January 1959	Arrangements made to bulldoze area of church, clear stumps, survey area and set foundation site
Easter Sunday 1959	Ground-breaking ceremony. Construction begun at an anticipated cost of \$75,000.  Plans and specifications were drawn by Lt. Mike Maxwell, USAF. To a great extent, labor was provided by many volunteers from Eglin AFB and Valparaiso. Ralph Reese, Sr. did all the electrical work and Jerome Bauer provided the engineering expertise throughout the construction stages.
Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960	The very first Mass was celebrated in the brand new church by Father Patrick Cunningham, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Fort Walton Beach.
October 1960	The Holy Name of Jesus Rosary and Sanctuary Society was founded, the purpose of which was the development of the spiritual life of the Catholic women of the parish.
April 16, 1961	Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen, of the Diocese of Mobile, formally dedicated Holy Name of Jesus Church.
December 1964	Our status as a mission church was raised to a parish. Reverend Alexander P. McKeon was named the first Pastor of Holy Name.
February 1965	The Holy Name Society was formed. First President was Daniel L. Henehan. This group took care of much of the maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Soon after its formation, the Holy Name Society erected the Grotto in memory of the group's deceased members. They named it the "Ave Maria" grotto.
March 1965	Ground was broken for a new Rectory. The rectory was completed in May 1965. The pastor now has a home on parish grounds.
1965	Records show 65 registered families in the parish.
1966	The parish hall was built to serve as both a gathering place for social activities, as well as classrooms for Sunday School classes.
February 1967	Holy Name celebrated for the first time the Sacrament of Confirmation. 98 high school students were confirmed after a year of preparation. Teachers were Rose Ladley and Mary Sweeney.

- June 1968 Norwest Florida became part of the Diocese of St. Augustine.
- October 1968 The flagpole and plaque memorial (in front of the church) were erected by the Holy Name Society as a tribute to the men and women who have defended and preserved the freedom of this nation. Fred Nixon, Sr. was head of the Society at that time. Congressman Bob Sikes joined Niceville-Valparaiso civic leaders in the formal dedication of the new flagpole.
- June 1969 Father McKeon left the pastorate of Holy Name to become the pastor of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in St. Augustine. Reverend Terrell F. Solana replaced him as pastor of Holy Name.
- December 1971 The Ladies' Altar Society held their first Christmas bazaar. This became an annual money-making event which paid for many improvements and décor in the church for many years to come.
- September 1972 Father Solana was reassigned to Tallahassee and Father Jules A. Keating came on board as the new pastor.
- November 1974 There were 171 registered families on record.
- September 1975 Father Keating retired and was replaced by Reverend Brendan J. Heaslip.
- Fall of 1976 With the blessings of Father Heaslip, 19-year old Airman Mike Marley, formed our very first Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). Starting with 12 high school young men and women, the CYO rapidly became the best youth group in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.
- October 1980 Knights of Columbus Council 7667 was formed with 52 charter members. Jack Stanley was the Council's Charter Grand Knight. The knights became an integral volunteer work force in our parish, donating many hours of time, talent and commitment to numerous parish ministries and improvements. Their outstanding work in the parish as well as the community earned them numerous State Council of the Year awards.
- 1981 The new Religious Education Building was completed to meet the growing needs of the parish. There were eight classrooms, girl's and boy's bathrooms, and a library/office. The building was dedicated in March of 1982.
- 1983 Father Heaslip became very ill and was moved to a home in Pensacola, Florida. Reverend Francis Szykutowicz took over the pastorate of Holy Name.
- 1983 Joe Crabtree and Lou Marini, with the approval of the Parish Council, organized a St. Vincent de Paul Society in our parish. Now in existence for 21 years, this benevolent society, whose funds come only from donations, continues to provide immeasurable help to the poor of the community.
- 1985 Having been here for only two years, Father Francis was reassigned to St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sunny Hills, Florida. Reverend Michael J. Tugwell became the sixth pastor of Holy Name of Jesus.

- 1985 The beautiful stained glass windows were installed in the Church. Each window represented a scripture from the bible. The windows were purchased from funds donated through memorials.
- 1985 This same year, a Mission was begun at Bluewater Bay which was given the name Christ Our Redeemer.
- December 1985 Christ Our Redeemer held its first Mass at the Bluewater Bay Conference Center. 197 people were in attendance.
- 1989 Bishop Joseph Keith Symons formally established Christ Our Redeemer as a parish. The majority of parishioners who live in Bluewater Bay and nearby areas moved their membership to Christ Our Redeemer parish. Father Michael Cherup was named as the first pastor of Christ Our Redeemer.
- 1990 Father Tugwell left Holy Name to become the pastor of the co-Cathedral in Tallahassee. Reverend Daniel J. Butler was appointed to succeed him. Father Butler continues to serve as our pastor today.
- 1995 The Administration Building was constructed to house the parish offices, a gathering lobby, a multi-purpose room, a small kitchenette, regular bathrooms as well as handicapped facilities for men and women; and the St. Vincent de Paul Society office. The old office was converted into a Chapel where daily Masses were held.
- October 1996 Holy Name of Jesus adopted St. Jude Church, a Glenmary Home Mission located in Glenville, Georgia. Our parish made a covenant to provide assistance when needed and to make an annual donation to this mission. Jackie O'Neal started the "Giving Tree" program and every year at Christmas, over 100 children of St. Jude enjoy generous presents donated by members of Holy Name of Jesus.
- 1997 Daily Mass attendance averaged from 35-45. The chapel is now too crowded for daily Masses. Plans were made to build a new chapel.
- Fall of 1998 A new, 50-seat chapel was built and completed. It was attached to the back of the main church, directly across from the parish rectory.
- January 2000 A group of talented and dedicated parishioners, most of whom were Knights of Columbus, took on a major project of renovating the parish hall. This mammoth, self-help project resulted in increased square footage, installation of bathroom facilities to include a separate handicap bathroom, and an updated and spacious kitchen and work areas. The hall was completed in June 2001.
- January 2004 Plans for a new Parish Life Center was conceived.
- May 2004 Father Butler marked his 14<sup>th</sup> year as pastor of Holy Name.
- December 2004 Records show a total of 658 registered families.

